



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Jackson, James; Piechowiak, Robert J.

Assignee: Sigma Game, Inc.

Title: SLOT MACHINE HAVING MULTIPLE PROGRESSIVE JACKPOTS

Serial No.: Unassigned Filed: Herewith

Examiner: Unassigned Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Docket No.: M-7876 US

San Jose, California
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BOX PATENT APPLICATION
ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, D. C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Below is a brief summary of relevant slot machines, as understood by the Applicants, that have either been offered for sale or described in a printed publication more than one year prior to the application filing date. Photos and drawings are identified in the enclosed PTO Form 1449 showing the fronts of the machines.

A. In the slot machine called "Money Money," by Sigma Game, Inc., a progressive jackpot only became available on depositing a third coin (i.e., the maximum bet).

B. In the Bally "889" model slot machine, a progressive jackpot was only available upon making the maximum bet of three coins. Two different progressive jackpots were displayed on the machine, with an arrow pointing to only one of the two jackpots. After the maximum bet was placed, the arrow would toggle back and forth between the two jackpots. Depending on which progressive arrow was lit when the jackpot was hit, the player would be paid the corresponding amount.

C. The slot machine "Mega Bucks" by IGT used a primary (large) progressive jackpot and a secondary (smaller) progressive jackpot. The primary jackpot was won upon

betting the maximum bet and obtaining special jackpot symbols across only the third payline. The secondary jackpot was won after placing the maximum bet and obtaining the special jackpot symbols across any of the three paylines. As in the previously described machines, the progressive jackpots were only available after the maximum bet.

D. The slot machine "Quarter Mania" by IGT had a primary progressive jackpot and a secondary progressive jackpot similar to the "Mega Bucks" machine (described above) where the maximum bet must be placed in order to win any of the two progressive jackpots. The primary jackpot is won by one special winning symbol combination, and the secondary jackpot is won by a different special symbol combination.

E. The slot machine "PokerMania" by IGT used primary and secondary progressive jackpots. One of the two progressive jackpots may only be won by betting the maximum bet.

F. There are many derivations of slot machines which have multiple progressive jackpots, but the jackpots are only available after betting a maximum bet. Such slot machines are cumulative and need not be disclosed. Pages from magazines showing these machines are identified in the enclosed Form 1449.

G. The slot machine that is partially shown on page 52 of the magazine "Casino Player," April 1999, appears to use three progressive jackpots, one for each payline of a three-line machine. Although details of this machine are not known by the Applicants, it is believed that the center jackpot is only paid when the special jackpot symbol combination appears on the center payline, the next highest jackpot is paid when the special symbol combination appears on the payline above the center payline, and the highest jackpot is paid when the special symbol combination appears on the payline below the center payline.

As seen, none of the prior art slot machines known to Applicants has the features of Applicants' claims.

The machines and documents listed on the accompanying PTO Form-1449 are called to the attention of the Examiner for the above patent application. Copies of the documents are enclosed.

Citation of these documents shall not be construed as:

1. a representation that a search has been made, other than as described above; or
2. an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in § 1.56(b).

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on **February 7, 2000**.



Attorney for Applicants

February 7, 2000

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



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